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Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 211



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WORLDWIDE REPORT

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U.S. SPURNING OF LOS TREATY UPSETS SOUTH PACIFIC NATIONS

Concern Over Fishing Rights

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 10 Aug 82 p 5

[text]

South Pacific nations, managers of the world's largest ocean area, are highly concerned that the United States has decided not to sign the Law of the Sea Convention.

The forum is expected to adopt a motion regretting the United States decision and it will urge all forum members to sign the convention.

The Prime Minister, Mr Muldoon last night strongly endorsed the forum's concern over the failure of the United States to sign the convention.

The forum was quite firm in its view that after years of negotiations it was reasonable to hope there would have been a conclusion, Mr Muldoon said.

Tuna fishing is a major economic resource for many

nations and the American decision leaves doubt in the minds of many over their rights to the resource.

Mr Muldoon said the forum hoped the United States would change its mind and there was likely to be a reference to its stance in a communique expressing the forum's view that all nations should sign the convention.

Recognition

The United States appears to have gone some way by allowing its tuna boats to be registered by the countries in whose waters they fished.

It was a sort of de facto recognition, he said.

Some of the nations plan to mine undersea for manganese and other minerals. Forum nations, assisted by the United Nations, are now engaged in a major oceanic research project on the seabed between Fiji, New Zealand and Vanuatu.

The forum resolution is likely to press strongly for other developed nations not to follow the United States example.

Many forum countries, Papua New Guinea and Fiji in particular, have already invested millions of dollars in tuna fishing.

Advantage

The United States deploys dozens of tuna clippers in the region, mostly working under co-operative arrangements with the Pacific Islands concerned.

A forum fisheries agency was set up several years ago to help to develop the tuna resource to the best advantage of all member nations.

The agency is now set to become a regional tuna co-operative for all 13 forum nations and it may eventually become the manager of the world's largest migratory fish resource.

The agency director, Mr P. Muller, said the main aim was to raise fishing benefits for all by providing technical help and advice.

Vast Zone

The agency could also become the political voice of the region for fishing matters, he said. But that would be up to the forum governments rather than agency staff.

The level of foreign fishing activity within the agency's vast zone is now being established.

"At least half of the American tuna fleet now operates in the Pacific," Mr Muller said.

Between 2000 and 3000 Asian-owned pole and line tuna boats also operated in the area.

Relations had improved between forum nations and the foreign fishermen from beyond the region who fished there, he said.

Foreign fishermen were beginning to seek accommodation with island interests. American fishermen were the most difficult to deal with.

"They are not as well disciplined as the others and seem to tell the American Government what to do."

Lower Profits

The Americans had a high amount of capital invested in their sophisticated tuna clippers and wanted large profits from relatively short term speculation.

Japanese fishermen were prepared to accept lower profits and preferred long term arrangements, Mr Muller said.

The lucrative southern blue fin tuna, in which the New Zealand industry is now investing, could be in danger of being overfished, he said. The agency was waiting for marine biologists to come up with figures to indicate suitable fishing limits.

The southern blue fin tuna has been heavily worked, mostly by Japanese tuna long liners, for the last 20 years to provide fish for Japan's famous sashimi dish.

South Pacific Forum Communique

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 11 Aug 82 p 20

[Text] The South Pacific Forum wants the United States to revise its fisheries policy to take into account the vital economic interests of the 13 member nations.

It has also severely chastised nations like Japan, which link aid donations to fishing rights.

The member nations of the forum, which includes Australia and New Zealand, yesterday issued a tough communique registering their grave concern over American fishing policy.

The communique said fisheries within the region,

which extends from the Cook Islands to Australia and from the Federated States of Micronesia to New Zealand, was of vital importance, particularly as far as migratory species were concerned.

There had been a virtually unanimous recognition of the sovereign rights of coastal states to exploit the resources of their fisheries zones, including migratory species, through the adoption of the April 30, 1982, Law of the Sea Convention.

Principles Clash

The forum took note that the United States asserted its own rights to control billfish, which were highly migratory, within its own 200-mile zone.

In making that point the forum communique points up an apparent conflict of American principles, where one attitude is adopted by

the United States regarding migratory fish in its own waters, and another is adopted about migratory fish, such as tuna, in other nations' zones.

About half of the American tuna clipper fleet now works in forum waters and United States fisheries policy does not now recognise the right of forum nations to regulate catches and license boats.

The forum communique said there were serious implications resulting from those policies which could have a bearing on the wider relationship of the United States with forum members.

Trade Reprisals

The forum is extremely concerned about the response of the United States to the action of forum members which try to protect their resources.

On that point the com-

muniqué refers to American laws which make provision for trade reprisals against nations which arrest United States fishing boats or fine their crews for fisheries offences not recognised by the United States.

The communique affirms the commitment of the forum countries to develop their fisheries resources for the benefit of their peoples, and expresses regret that the exclusive right of these nations to exploit highly migratory fish within their fisheries zones is not yet recognised by the United States.

It urges America to revise its policy on migratory species.

Right To Fish

The forum also criticised Japan and other nations which link aid donations with access to their waters.

The communique said it was essential that these resources produced the maximum benefit for their people and it deplored the increasing tendency of distant fishing nations to link the grant for aid with the right to fish their waters.

On the aid issue, the forum spokesman, the President of Kiribati, Mr Ieremia Tabai, said Japan was the major fishing nation and an aid donor to the region.

He suggested aid was being used as a lever to gain access to fishing grounds, and added: "If you do not give us the right to fish you do not get the aid. It was that kind of lever."

The forum agreed yesterday to accept the Federated States of Micronesia as a member of the forum fisheries agency.

Christchurch 'PRESS' Editorial

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 10 Aug 82 p 22

[Editorial: "South Pacific Issues"]

[Excerpts] The issues before the South Pacific Forum meeting in Rotorua are all important to the region. They are generally issues that have been raised before, the fact that they recur year after year means that they have not been resolved. One of the most important was the fishing rights question, raised yesterday. This concerns the fact that the United States has still not agreed to recognise highly migratory species of fish, in this instance tuna, as coming under the jurisdiction of coastal States. The point may seem technical, but a number of the smaller members of the South Pacific Forum have almost no marketable resources other than the fish that surround their islands or pass through waters close to their islands. The United States, which occasionally shows signs of wanting to meet the demands of the small Pacific countries, faces pressure from its fishing industry. The American industry does not want highly migratory species of fish to be considered as part of the resources of any country's Exclusive Economic Zone.

The South Pacific Forum has adopted an approach of regional co-operation on fishing resources. In 1979 the members established the Forum Fisheries Agency. This is one of the bodies which attempts to deal with the region's problems in a practical way. New Zealand and Australia each pay one-third of the agency's budget and the remaining third is divided among the other Forum countries. Because tuna is the most valuable species that some island countries have, these countries are particularly anxious that their claims to the fish are recognised internationally.

Linked with this is the problem of the United States' refusal to sign the Law of the Sea treaty. New Zealand has protested about the American refusal on a number of occasions. Although the United States is one of the few countries not to sign the treaty, the purpose of the whole exercise was to have an internationally recognised code on rights of coastal States, on the passage through international waters, and

— on a host of other matters. The very existence of Exclusive Economic Zones arises out of the Law of the Sea negotiations.

Attempts to share ideas on fisheries, Law of the Sea, and independence for a territory, demonstrate the usefulness of the South Pacific Forum. The body has evolved in a way that it makes it pre-eminently suitable to consider the questions of the region. From time to time in the past it has tended to concentrate on the detail of regional arrangements and has thereby caused some irritation among some of its members. However, it now seems to be sorting out the issues of moment in the region and to be seeking to deal with them. In doing this the Forum serves a purpose not served by any other body. Some of the issues may not be resolved at all, but a number of problems will be eased and the combined effort tends to produce many voices in concert when, on their own, South Pacific voices would be thin and might be unnecessarily out of tune.

CSO: 5200/9105

NEW ZEALAND COMPANY MAKES BIGGEST TUNA SALE TO JAPAN

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 8 Sep 82 p 12

[Text]

A converted long-line fishing boat is due in Nelson this week, crammed with frozen tuna worth \$5.22 million, after an exercise unique in New Zealand fishing.

The tuna, 290 tonnes of it, is bound for the Japanese market in the same boat which has been cruising off the West Coast for the last 10 weeks.

The sale is the biggest of its kind. It represents a coup for the Nelson company Solander Fisheries, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, which has backed the venture with its expertise.

The catch is expected to be the largest single catch landed by any foreign country in Japan.

The art of correctly processing southern bluefin tuna for the Japanese market has eluded New Zealand and Australian fishermen since the first efforts were made in the early 1970s.

The tuna had been netted off the West Coast in among the hoki catches, and a ministry research scientist, Mr. David Gibson, discovered how the fish was cleaned correctly while working on a Japanese long-liner in 1979.

He followed this up with a visit to Japan, then drew up a manual which was sent back to Japan for vetting.

"Preparing the fish is an involved process," said Mr. Gibson. "It is gilled and gutted, but if the digestive tract is cut the flesh is damaged."

He put his theory to the test in the same year by catching, preparing and exporting one fish weighing 94 kilograms. It fetched \$16 a kilogram.

A shipment of 10 fish followed, with similar results, and the ministry then set up courses which have so far trained 120 New Zealand fishermen.

On the basis of this Solander Fisheries chartered a boat last year and exported 170 tonnes of tuna to Japan. The whole shipment was bought because it had been prepared in accordance with Mr. Gibson's manual. The catch earned the New Zealand company \$14 million.

This year, Solander Fisheries, encouraged by the Fishing Industries Board, and both the research and fisheries management divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, bought a long-line fishing boat and refitted it with a helicopter pad and giant freezers.

It plied the coast, taking catches from a fleet of up to 54 boats coming from as far as Auckland, preparing and freezing them.

They had found that two men fishing on a 20 metre

fishing boat could catch an average of 5.6 fish a day on hand lines, while a standard long-liner carrying 21 crew landed 11.5 fish," said Mr. Gibson.

"The small-boat system was much more economic."

During its cruise over the last 10 weeks, the Daniel Solander has exported tuna direct to Japan, sending it by helicopter then truck to Christchurch or Auckland, from where it has been air-freighted to Tokyo.

But the major catch, 290 tonnes of tuna, is in the holds of the Daniel Solander which will sail direct for Japan after its call at Nelson.

There the whole catch will be sold to a single buyer for redistribution. New Zealand tuna landed by Japanese boats is earning \$18 a kilogram.

Mr. Gibson said that now New Zealanders knew the Japanese method of processing the tuna, the \$90 million the Japanese made from the fish last year could eventually become New Zealand's.

PRAWN FISHERMEN RECOUNT TUNA INCIDENTS WITH JAPANESE

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD In English 16 Sep 82 p 12

[Text]

North Coast prawn fishermen are pressing the Federal Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Nixon, to exclude Japanese long-line tuna fishermen from rich new prawn grounds.

They say the Japanese lines are fouling prawning gear and trawler propellers.

One fisherman, Mr Eric Toyer, of Yamba, said that four out of six prawning trips he made to the grounds in late August and early September had to be aborted because of trouble with the lines.

On one trouble-free trip, he took in 4½ tonnes of the prawns, known as royal reds. On another, he took about 3½ tonnes. The value of these two catches was more than \$10,500.

Although these were valuable catches, costs of the trips and the capital investment involved were high, he said.

In a letter to Mr Nixon he has asked that in current negotiations for a 1983 fishing agreement with Japan, the long-liners be excluded from a zone 30 nautical miles from the coast.

He writes of the "extreme frustration" of the Australians and the possibility of "incidents."

The prawning grounds, discovered off the far North Coast by the NSW fisheries research vessel *Kapala*, are in depths between 220 fathoms and 300 fathoms about 24 nautical miles from the coast.

The northern boundary is due east of Evans Head and the south-

ern close to North Solitary Island. The grounds have been increasingly worked since 1977 by the larger boats from Ballina, Evans Head, Iluka, Yamba and Coffs Harbour.

Mr Toyer said yesterday: "Since the establishment of the 200 nautical mile Australian fishing zone, Japanese boats have been licensed to work in the area up to the 12-mile limit to exploit tuna stocks which at present are not sought by the Australian fishermen in any numbers."

"However this area is exploited by the Australian trap fishermen, whose traps on the bottom are attached to marker buoys, and since 1977, following the discovery of the royal red prawn grounds, by fishermen with boats capable of trawling in deep water."

"Although instances of trap buoys being lost and trawling gear fouled by long lines have occurred in the past, the incidence of these events has increased dramatically in the past 12 months."

Mr Toyer said the Japanese were working in the area legally, but the Australian fishermen wanted them excluded from the 30-mile zone. There appeared to be adequate stocks of tuna beyond this line, and the distance provided a buffer zone between the two types of fishing operations.

Long-lining involves setting a line up to 10 nautical miles long, suspended about six to eight fathoms below the surface from buoys. From this, dropper lines are laid, baited with yellowtail for the tuna.

As they are not anchored, the long-lines drift with the current and will pick up any marker buoy ropes attached to traps or will foul trawling gear when they drift over the narrow band of prawns being worked by the Australian boats.

This is Mr Toyer's record of events on the Royal Red grounds involving his boat Topaz, at 18.4 metres the largest in the Yamba fleet:

August 15: Trawl aborted after two Japanese long-lines encountered.

August 22: After one catch of 150 kilograms of prawns, the three nets on the next trawl came to the surface entangled with a long-line. Disentangling took four hours, and the next day was lost setting up the trawl gear again.

August 22: After one catch of working around the Topaz on the grounds, and at times their lines were within 200 metres of the boat. But the trip was trouble-free and 4,565 kilogram of prawns were caught.

September 1: After catching 200 kilograms of prawns, long-lines were picked upon three occasions, then one long-line caught around the propeller. After further encounters with long-lines the trip was aborted so the propeller could be cleared in port.

September 3: Found a long-line set in the trawl area. Pursued long-line vessel, but could not catch it to identify it.

September 4: Trouble free trip, total catch 3,490 kilograms.

A claim by Mr Toyer for \$10,646 for lost income and repair costs from the trips has been sent to the Japanese Tuna Federation.

Mr Toyer said yesterday he had reported some of the incidents to the Department of Primary Industry and the Coastal Surveillance.

"The department stated that all Japanese long-line vessels had been directed to leave this area and not fish within 30 miles of the coast," he said.

"However the Japanese Tuna Federation interpreted this message as not to fish within the 272-fathom line. The vessel we saw on September 3 had set lines in 120 fathoms, 170 fathoms and 262 fathoms."

A Coastal Surveillance air patrol of the area on September 3 had found a Japanese long-line vessel 25 miles from the coast, he said.

No boats were in the area on September 4, but they had returned by September 6.

Mr Toyer said the Australian boats had tried to speak to the Japanese boats, but generally had been unsuccessful, with the Japanese moving away when approached.

Mr Toyer says in his letter to Mr Nixon that unless the 30-mile zone is established, "it is inevitable that incidents will occur between vessels of the two nations."

"These incidents could have potentially serious consequences for our trading relationships," he writes.

"We do request that Australian boats be given a fair go to exploit a resource found and developed by Australians and which provides a considerable employment potential without being subject to accidental or deliberate harassment by overseas-based boats."

A spokesman for the Department of Primary Industry said yesterday the department had informed Japanese officials of the complaints.

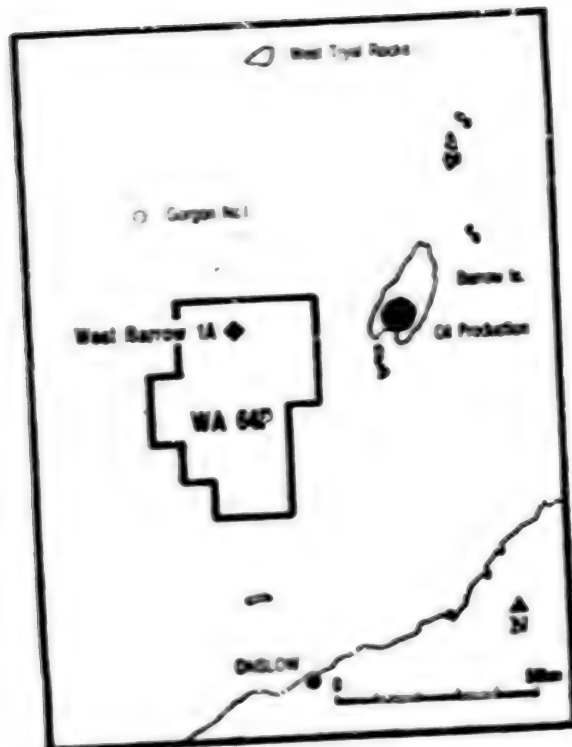
The matter would be taken further when the department negotiated the tuna-fishing agreement with the Japanese.

A new agreement comes into force each year on November 1.

A spokesman for the Japanese Embassy said the Japanese Tuna Federation had asked Japanese fishermen to exercise restraint.

10001) DUBOIS'S DREAM: In his report on the West African Drilling, Perth's (10000) AUSTRALIAN, 13 September 1940, page 73, ran the following map:

It was being towed to Bass Strait to drill in the P17 area, starting next week.



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BRIEFS

TASMANIA FISHING OPERATION--Three merged Tasmanian companies will spend \$7.2 million to set up one of the biggest and most modern fishing operations in the country. The State's senior federal minister, the Minister for Administrative Services, Mr Newman, describes the development as a morale booster to a depressed economy and the people of Tasmania. The new company, Allied Fisheries Tasmania Pty Ltd, will build its own boats, research its own fishing areas, do its own fishing, processing and marketing. It will create 200 jobs. The company hopes to have built five new fishing boats by June next year and eventually 20 to work the waters around the State for eel, shark, scale fish, abalone, crayfish, oysters and scallops. The new venture results from the merger of three northern Tasmanian companies, Launceston Shipyards Pty Ltd, Crustacean Fisheries Pty Ltd, and Allied Fisheries Tasmania Pty Ltd. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 18 Aug 82 p 3]

NW SHELF TOWER--Adelaide--A big piece of Australia's biggest resources project slid into the Port River at Adelaide on Saturday in preparation for a 4000 km journey to WA's North-West Shelf. The flare tower for the first stage of the \$5000 million North-West Shelf gas project was loaded sideways down two 220-metre-long inclined concrete slipways into the river channel. It is a self-floating structure. This week it will be towed by an ocean-going tug to the site of the North Rankin-A production platform, 130km off the WA coast. The tower and an even longer flare bridge have been constructed in Adelaide over the past 15 months by a joint venture of Eglo Engineering and Brown and Root. Measuring 150 metres--about 16 metres taller than the Sydney Harbour Bridge--the tower will be piled 120 metres into the sea bed as part of the production platform. Off-shore production-platform work began in May, when the huge eight-legged steel jacket section of the North Rankin-A platform arrived from Japan. The flare tower and bridge will support the flare stack, which is a safety valve used in an emergency to flare off gas from the platform. The bridge section is expected to leave Port Adelaide later this week on the same barge that was used to bring the jacket section from Japan. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 23 Aug 82 p 5]

FISHING POLICY PROPOSALS--BANGKOK, Sunday--The Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government are studying proposals for new fishery and on-shore industrial projects for the Arafura Sea and the NT. Main points of projects suggested by an Australian businessman here are: New fishing licences

Arafura Sea to be granted only to Australian-registered trawlers. The new fishery consortium would construct fish processing, freezing and canning plants on shore. A free industrial and trading zone under local government control to be established in Northern Territory coastal areas. The businessman, Mr Frederick Wehbe, said he had put up the plan because Australia was getting too little out of the exploitation of its fishing grounds by foreigners. Most of the Arafura Sea fishing was in the hands of Taiwanese trawler owners who took the catch to Taiwan. Mr Wehbe runs an Australian-Norwegian fish-processing factory in Bangkok. He said the Australian Government was considering issuing licences for 28 Thai trawlers to fish in the Arafura Sea, and it seemed Canberra was prepared to let them fish for derisory licence fees. The catch would be taken to Thailand for processing and Australia would get nothing out of it. [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 30 Aug 82 p 2]

JAPAN-AUSTRALIA TUNA TALKS--Sydney, 12 Oct KYODO--Japan and Australia have concluded this year's tuna longline fishing talks with a renewed agreement to be signed in Canberra at the end of this month, officials said Tuesday. The two countries agreed to set 1982-1983 charges for tuna longline fishing in Australian waters at 1.44 million Australian dollars, up 7.7 percent from the previous year. Japan's fishing boat operations in Australia's 200 sea-mile zone will be limited to a 10-20 mile area off the coast of New South Wales, but other details are unchanged from the preceding agreement, the officials said. The Australian side showed a flexible attitude toward the question of tuna resources conservation and the two countries and New Zealand will continue to negotiate, sources close to the talks said. The number of Japanese tuna long-liners will total 350 vessels, unchanged from the previous year, the officials said. [Text] [OW141057 Tokyo KYODO in English 0254 GMT 12 Oct 82]

DAMPIER OFFSHORE DRILLING--Candice No 1, the first well to be drilled on what is regarded as the highly prospective WA-192-P, was spudded in last Friday. Mr Alan Bond, chairman of Bond Corporation Holdings Ltd, which has a 25 per cent stake in the permit area, said that Candice was the first of three wells to be drilled there this financial year. The work would cost Bond Corporation \$11.25m., or half its total exploration budget for the year. The permit area stretches from 53km east of Barrow Island into the North-West coast near Dampier. Mr Bond said that it had been the most sought-after permit in Australia when it was put up for tender last year and the exploration commitments won from the successful tenderers were a record for WA. More than 6,000km of seismic had been shot over the permit area this year. The well was being drilled by the jack-up rig Maerisk Valiant in 19m of water and was programmed to 2,300m. Drilling would take 60 to 80 days. Other partners are Australian Occidental Pty Ltd (27 per cent), Ranger Oil Australia Ltd (17 per cent), Texas Eastern Inc (10 per cent), Reading and Bates Australia Pty Ltd (8.5 per cent), Pontoon Oil and Minerals (7.5 per cent) and Pelsart Oil NL (five percent). [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 7 Sep 82 p 47]

BASS STRAIT DRILLING--Melbourne--The new semi-submersible drilling rig Nymphaea is scheduled to arrive in Victorian waters late this year to begin a series of wells in Vic-P19 in Bass Strait, Mincorp said yesterday. The rig, being built at the Hitachi Zosen shipyard, is expected to leave Japan on October 12, Mincorp said. Its first well, Volador, is expected to start in late November or early December, the company said. Shell Australia, with a 40 percent stake, is the operator for Vic-P19. TNT has 20 percent, News Ltd, 20 percent, Crusader 15 percent and Mincorp 5 percent. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 14 Sep 82 p 30]

OFFICIAL STRESSES NEED TO PROTECT OFFSHORE WEALTH

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

REAR Admiral S. Jain, Flag-Officer Commanding, Eastern Fleet, stressed in Calcutta on Wednesday the need to strengthen protection of India's off-shore wealth while commissioning the sixth Seaward Defence Boat built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers. The vessel will serve on the western coast.

The defence boat can cruise in shallow waters because of its small draught. It is fitted with light armament, radar and sonar and is ideal for protection of off-shore wealth during peace and for defence of harbour and patrolling of its approaches in war. Of the six ships of the type built so far, two have been handed over to the Coast Guards with minor modifications. The other four are with the Navy. Seven similar vessels are under construction at the Garden Reach yard.

The FOC said that the defence boats were also equipped to meet threats to off-shore installations from under water. The sonar was powerful enough to detect not only enemy submarines but also

midguts and chariots. It had facilities on board to throw explosive charges to deter enemy divers. The Admiral agreed that nowadays threat in the sea often came from under water and added that the Indian Navy was equipped to meet it.

He regretted that the vessel, which was commissioned on Wednesday, had taken almost five years to be completed. Some of the naval ships built at the workshop had to face problems while under construction, he said. He hoped that the ships to be built there in future would be delivered quickly.

Commodore A. K. Sarkar, chairman and managing director of the Garden Reach workshop, told reporters that the delay in construction of the ship was because of the troubled industrial relations which it had faced some time ago. In his address, Commodore Sarkar said that the commissioned vessel had been designed locally. The initial problems in designing and building the defence boats had now been overcome.

The Garden Reach workshop, he said, was also building a large landing craft and a few survey vessels and an improved version of the Seaward Defence Boat. The landing craft, which had been designed indigenously, would be the largest naval ship to have been built in the country. The workshop would soon start the manufacture of a few sophisticated combat ships.

Commodore Sarkar felt that the Navy should entrust the repair of certain ships with the workshop. The infrastructure and expertise for repair of naval ships existed in Calcutta. A major outfitting facility oriented towards naval shipbuilding was being set up at the workshop and the facilities could be utilized for naval ship repair.

CSO: 5200/7055

EXPERTS TELL OF PROFIT IN OCEAN TUNA-FISHING

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Aug 82 p 7

[Text] NEW DELHI, August 30 (UPI): Fishery planners should shake off their "apathy" to the development of tuna fishing in the high seas — a profitable field in which even some non-Indian Ocean countries are planning to enter.

This view has been expressed by two leading fishery scientists of the country, Dr. E. G. Silas and Dr. P. P. Pillai of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute run by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

The average annual catch of tunas, tuna-like fishes and billfishes in the world in the last few years has been about 2.14 million tonnes, of which the production from the Indian Ocean is estimated at 0.25 million tonnes.

It has been estimated that the exploitable potential yield of tunas and allied fishes from India's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is 240,000 tonnes, against which production in 1979 was hardly 26,600 tonnes.

The value of tunas and allied fishes produced commercially in Indian waters is about Rs. 90 million a year. It is proposed to achieve a production target of 115,000 tonnes valued at Rs. 922 million by 1990.

Indigenous production in the small scale fishery sector has augmented production of coastal species of tunas. The production in Lakshadweep has gone up from 7,800 in 1981 to 26,000 tonnes in 1979, the country is still practically in the same stage as in 1961 as far as exploitation of resources from the exclusive economic zone and contiguous high seas are concerned.

A well-established tuna longline fishery exists in the Indian Ocean, which was started by the Japanese in 1952. Both Taiwan and South Korea have entered the field in the sixties.

Some of the constraints in the development of tuna fishery in Indian waters are lack of organised fishery for tunas except in Lakshadweep, inadequate marketing system, and unwillingness to adopt capital intensive operations such as purse seining and longlining.

The scientists have also suggested a crash programme for training personnel on the operational side. They have recommended the establishment of an international commission for conservation of Indian Ocean tuna.

CSO: 5200/7054

BRIEFS

OIL OFF PONDICHERRY--NEW DELHI, Sept. 9--Oil has been struck for the first time in the Porto Novo Structure, 40 km off the coast of Pondicherry, reports PFI. Oil was accompanied by gas in the well, the fourth in the area. Gas was struck earlier in one of the two wells taken up for drilling by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in 1980. Tests are being conducted to determine the flow rate in the new well spudded on July 27. Porto Novo is north of the Palk Strait, where oil was struck a year ago in the first well at a flow rate of 1,050 barrels a day. The next two wells in the Palk Strait showed slight traces of oil or gas. The ONGC then moved in to drill the fourth and the fifth wells there. The new find came up at a depth of 1,400 metres in the fourth well. The well is being tested and the flow-rate of oil and gas is expected to be known in the next few days. The 350-ton deck of the burnt-out SJ platform at Bombay High was cut and removed to the Derrick Barge Hercules this morning in preparation for the capping of the blow-out SJ-5 2311, according to ONGC sources here today. [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Sep 82 p 1]

THAI VESSELS CONFISCATED--The Judicial Magistrate of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands confiscated three vessels of Thailand and sentenced 51 foreign nationals on August 11 to various terms of imprisonment for unauthorizedly entering the territorial waters of the islands and illegally fishing by using detonators and other explosives, according to a Union Government Press note issued in Calcutta on Tuesday. The Judicial Magistrate, Mr B. N. Bera, in his judgment sentenced the 51 foreign nationals to undergo rigorous imprisonment for 10 months and pay a fine of Rs 500 each, in default of to rigorous imprisonment for a further period of two months under the Foreigners' Act. They were further sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for three months each for offences under the Fisheries Regulation. They were also sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for one and a half years for offences under the Indian Explosives Act. The sentences would run concurrently, the note added. [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 25 Aug 82 p 3]

Cso: 5200/7053

SURVEY OF FISH POPULATIONS ON CHATHAM RISE ENCOURAGING

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 8 Sep 82 p 7

[Text]

A survey of orange roughy on the Chatham Rise, made by fisheries research scientists, has been described as most encouraging.

The scientists, from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Research Division, returned to Dunedin on Sunday after a six-week research cruise aboard a co-operative venture vessel.

The leader of the research team, Dr Don Robertson, said that high catch rates in the first part of the trip, good weather, and rapid progress contributed to the successful completion of the survey.

Its results "will enable an estimation of the biomass of the trawlable populations of orange roughy and 10 major by-catch species along the Northern Chatham Rise," said Dr Robertson.

The team achieved an important condition of the programme, which was to catch 1000 tonnes green weight of orange roughy in exchange for the charter of the vessel.

"This cruise points to the possibility of joint commercial and research cruises for research on otherwise inaccessible fish populations in the deep offshore waters of the New Zealand exclusive economic zone," Dr Robertson said.

Trawl samples were taken from an area 800km long and up to 32km wide, from east

of the Chatham Islands to east of Banks Peninsula, to depths beyond 1000 metres.

During the cruise the fisheries research vessel James Cook made a temperature-salinity survey of the area to complement the fishery data.

The results will be combined in a report which should be completed in six months.

CSO: 3200/9107

BRIEFS

OFFSHORE OIL LICENSE--Wellington (Press Assn)--An offshore petroleum prospecting licence south of Dunedin has been granted to Husky Oil International Ltd and Stewart Petroleum Co Ltd. The licence is for a period of five years starting this month and covers an area of 10,740 square kilometres. The proposed work programme submitted by the partners includes a firm commitment to 800 kilometres of new seismic data to be incorporated into the existing data. "A requirement to surrender the licence after two years, or submit a work programme for the remaining three years is also included," said the Minister of Energy, Mr Birch. The licence was for prospecting, not for drilling. Stewart Petroleum is a wholly owned subsidiary of New Zealand Oil and Gas which has interests in New Zealand. Husky Oil is part of the Nova group of companies which includes Alberta Gas Chemicals Ltd. Alberta Gas is Petrocorp's partner in the Waitara methanol Plant. Husky Oil itself is a very large Canadian oil company which has operations, ranging from exploration to refining, in many countries. [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 4 Sep 82 Sec 3 p 3]

CSO: 5200/9107

CARICOM LOS CONFERENCE: JAMAICA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Sep 82 pp 1, 2

[Text] Jamaica is committed to the early entry into force of the recently-adopted Convention on the Law of the Sea as "the best vehicle to secure a universally recognisable legal regime for all matters related to the Law of the Sea." Jamaica is also committed to regional approaches through organisations like CARICOM that will secure the co-operation and collaboration of countries in the region to achieve common goals.

This was stated by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, DR. NEVILLE GALLIMORE, at the opening of the eighth meeting of CARICOM officials on the Law of the Sea, at the Ministry, Knutsford Boulevard, yesterday.

Dr. Gallimore re-affirmed Jamaica's commitment to the Law of the Sea and said that this country like its Caribbean neighbours was inextricably linked with the sea in terms of history, culture, nutrition, and development. Jamaica, he added, recognised "that the many bounties offered by the sea cannot be taken for granted."

"We all are aware that this Convention will require the strong support of countries like ours if it is ever to be universally acceptable as we all hope". The text represented a compromise which met the needs of no one country or group of countries but "made an earnest attempt to meet the needs of the entire international community to avoid disputes that may lead to threats to international peace and security", he said.

Dr. Gallimore expressed Jamaica's "profound appreciation for the support of all the CARICOM Member States participating in the Law of the Sea Conference for Jamaica's candidature for the Authority". "The outcome is now history and a triumph for the region as a whole but to you the member states of CARICOM, Jamaica is especially grateful".

Wishing the delegates success in their deliberations, he said he hoped that their stay in Jamaica would be both productive and enjoyable. He was confident, he said, that their decisions would be a step forward and "contribute to the beneficial exploitation of the maritime resources of the region and the preservation and protection of the marine environment".

Mr. Gordon Scotland, head of the Guyana delegation replied on behalf of the Caribbean countries. He said the Law of the Sea marked the entrance into a new phase of understanding: this was an opportunity to move together to greater appreciation of co-operation in terms of exploitation as well as the general development of CARICOM.

Expressing the hope that the meeting would provide the forum to help the region grasp the opportunity available under the Sea Law, he said: "We will put our talents to task to make our labour here productive".

The opening ceremony was chaired by Miss Denier Little, Assistant Legal Counsel.

CARICOM delegates attending the two-day meeting will discuss several topics including maritime jurisdiction in the Caribbean, environmental legislation in the Caribbean, and a report on the United Nations environment CARICOM project. Other issues include pollution, Marine scientific research, delimitation, and fisheries.

END: 5900/7501

BRIEFS

CARIBBEAN SHRIMP STUDY--GEORGETOWN, Mon., (Cana)--A JOINT PROJECT, involving Guyana, Brazil, Suriname and Cayenne, will begin, this month, to identify patterns of migration and the growth rate of shrimp in the continental shelf off the four countries' coasts, a Press report said. The "Chronicle" newspaper quoted principal fisheries officer, Reuben Charles, as saying that the study, to be assisted by the United States and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), also hopes to estimate the quantity of shrimp in the continental shelf and the degree of mobility of adult shrimp within the countries' fishing zones. The study involves the placing of numbered plastic tags on shrimp caught which would be returned to the sea, after their size and the place where they were caught are recorded. Trawler captains would be asked to turn in any tagged shrimp found in their catch to the National Fisheries Departments in the four countries, along with other data. Coordinators from the countries would meet at three-month intervals to put together the data, Mr. Charles added. Part of the cost of Guyana's contribution to the project would be covered by private shrimping companies here, and lotteries would be held as an incentive to captains participating in the data-collection for the study. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Sep 82 p 5]

CSO: 5200/7501

REPORTAGE ON FAO REGIONAL EEZ SEMINAR

To Coordinate Surveillance

VICTORIA NATION in English 20 Sep 82 pp 1, 2

[Fast] A NINE-NATION Food and Agriculture Organisation seminar to co-ordinate the surveillance of exclusive economic zones in the South-West Indian Ocean and so reduce costs opens today at the Beau Vallon Bay Hotel.

The Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Reunion, Somalia and Tanzania are expected to join Seychelles in the seminar organised jointly by the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Module based in Seychelles and the EEZ programme of the FAO.

Since last November a project officer, Mr D. Ardill, has been attached to the Ministry of Agriculture here to run the Regional Fisheries Develop-

ment and Management Project for the South-West Indian Ocean.

The emphasis of the seminar will be mainly on the tuna fishing as this is of regional interest. Some 37 to 40 per cent of the tuna fished in the Indian Ocean is in the exclusive economic zones of the taking part in the meeting countries.

Seychelles is hosting the seminar as it has a wide experience in this field already. It was the first country of the region to set up an EEZ Control Centre and to licence foreign fishing vessels effectively. This experience is expected to raise considerable interest among the foreign participants of the seminar.

The first seminar of this kind was held in Rome in April 1980. Since then, other regional seminars have been held in Jakarta, Indonesia in late 1981 and in Suva, Fiji earlier this year. This will therefore be the third regional seminar of its type.

Seychelles' delegation will include Chief Justice Earle Seaton, Mr. Francois Jackson of the EEZ Control Centre, Mr. Philippe Michaud of the Ministry of Planning and Development, Mr. Joel Nageon of the Fisheries Division.

Other outside participants will be a biologist specialised in tuna fishing, a legal expert, a consultant on monitoring and surveillance and various FAO officials.

Common Objectives

Victoria NATION in English 21 Sep 82 pp 1, 2

[Text]

THE Planning and Development Minister yesterday called for a spirit of co-operation and collaboration in working towards common objectives," as he opened a week-long regional seminar at Beau Vallon Bay Hotel on the monitoring, control and surveillance of exclusive economic zones.

Delegates from Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Reunion and Tanzania have joined Seychelles for the Food and Agriculture Organisation seminar.

SUITABLE

Commenting on how suitable Seychelles was for hosting such a meeting, Dr. Maxime Ferrari, the Minister of Planning and Development, pointed out that although fishing accounted for only four per cent of the gross domestic product, the Seychellois were certainly among the world's leading fish consumers. Each Seychellois ate about 85 kilos of fish a year, well above the minimum requirements for protein.

Yet these figures, Minister Ferrari told the 30 delegates, represented what was, for Seychelles, the tip of an iceberg.

The country, the Minister claimed, had the richest known tuna fishing grounds in the Indian Ocean.

UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

In the last two years, he said, "Seychelles has acquired a unique experience in the management of a large EEZ by a small, insular nation."

The balance sheet of this experience is positive in every respect.

The revenue from licences paid by foreign fleets had given a handsome profit over expenditure for surveillance and Seychelles had obtained considerable knowledge of the seasonal distribution, abundance and harvesting of pelagic fish.

However great an effort is made by an individual country, it is bound to be considerably diluted if its neighbours do not follow suit," Dr. Ferrari cautioned.

RAPID DEVELOPMENT

He hoped that through the seminar's discussions and presentations, other countries of the region would avoid the delays and uncertainties the Republic had gone through and would carry out a rapid development in the management of their economic zones.

Minister Ferrari also hoped

that the discussions would lead to future co-operation not only in the exchange of scientific information but even in surveillance. By reducing the costs of individual countries here revenue would be increased.

The fishermen in particular stand to gain from such co-operation as higher mobility of fishing fleets will reduce wasted time and proper

management will ensure an adequate sharing of resources.

Present at the opening were Seychelles People's Progressive Front Secretary-General Guy Simon and Agriculture Minister Karl St. Ange.

The seminar is being directed by a team of officials from the FAO headquarters in Rome, led by Mr. Christopher Newton.

Fishing Resources

VICTORIA/NATION in English 22 Sep 82 pp 1, 2

[Text] **A 25 million tonne deficit in world fish supplies predicted for the year 2000 will mean a great opportunity for developing countries to earn more foreign exchange through increased exports.**

This forecast from Food and Agricultural Organisation senior planning officer Christopher Newton, was delivered on Monday to the regional seminar here on exclusive economic zones.

Some 30 delegates from Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Reunion, Tanzania and Seychelles are taking part in the FAO workshop discussing the effective monitoring, control and surveillance of EEZs.

The meeting will also look into possible co-operation between South West Indian Ocean states in this field.

Speaking after the official opening of the seminar on Monday morning, Mr. Newton,

the meeting's director, explained that with the adoption of the Convention on the Law of the Sea, many coastal states were studying how to effectively control the increased fisheries resources provided by their 200-mile EEZs.

In addition to the acute problems associated with such control, coastal states now have the opportunity to establish their respective policies for the use to which such resources are to be put," Mr. Newton said.

No longer was it necessary, he pointed out, for most coastal states to share at a disadvantage in the resources outside their former territorial limits of 12 miles by competing with technologically advanced fishing vessels from developed countries. The impact of high fuel prices had made this even more apparent.

Now that the sophisticated distant-water fishing fleets of

The developed nations were having to cut down on their activities. Developing coastal countries could be expected to gradually take over the supply of fish to the North.

Mr Newton added that the FAO's forecasts of a 25-million tonne deficit in fish supplies by the year 2000 could only herald significant increases in prices for fish. It also meant an increase in the dependence of developed nations on fish from other nations.

While such prospects look good for the future, Mr Newton said, it does mean that fish for local consumption will have to compete in price with the export markets for fish, and this will place a burden on local people in the cost of

their protein. It means earning more foreign currency but eating more chicken and less fish."

Turning to the seminar subject of the monitoring, control and surveillance of EEZs, Mr Newton said that the meeting was starting something new, whose solutions could only be found through experience.

The purpose of the seminar is to identify the issues facing the coastal states of the south-west Indian Ocean, share experiences, and study the achievements and findings of other regions.

"We are fortunate in that Seychelles has already addressed this problem and we have much to learn from them," Mr Newton said.

INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AIRED AT NORDIC FISHING CONFERENCE

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Noweegian 27 Aug 82 ppl2

[Text] Helsingor, 26 August. There were several sharp clashes among the participating countries when the Nordic Fishing Conference was concluded in Helsingor Thursday. Norwegian fishermen and their organizations emphasized the necessity for respect for regulations, and their desire to get rid of the EEC duty. The Danes, for their part, were strongly opposed to rigorous Norwegian fishing regulations, pointing out that fishing operations in the two countries are quite different.

"Our fishing is based on profit, the sale of fish is not regulated, and we receive little or no support from the government," said Anker Gaihede, chairman of the Danish Fishing Union. "Norwegian fishing is thoroughly regulated and therefore receives enormous subsidies. Besides this, you have a first-class, modern fishing fleet that operates very effectively. The Danes do not have this. Therefore it is completely unrealistic for us to accept the Norwegian demand for regulations--whether it is a matter of common fishing or the sale of fish."

Gaihede was also referring to the Norwegians when he said that it is easy to carry out regulations when one is not touched oneself.

But Per A. Saevik of the Fishing Boat Owners Union argued against his Danish colleague by saying that the reason regulation is now having such great consequences is that it was started too late. Regulations are important, so important even that Nordic cooperation is needed for their enforcement.

At the conclusion, there was a clash between Director Johan Muri of Norway's National Fresh Fish Sale Union and the Danish director of Denmark's Fishing Industry and Export Union, Poul Torring. Muri emphasized that in Norway there is free import of fish, and we have also given public support to imported fish. But in 1981 we had to pay 74 million in duty on a sale of 1.7 billion kroner. Now we, too, should get a satisfactory agreement with the EEC countries. The Faeroe Islands and Iceland have managed this. And in order to attain it, we must have Danish help.

Poul Torring replied that free trade among nations was very desirable. But then Norwegian fishermen may also have the opportunity to land fish in Denmark—and not be stopped by domestic restrictions. "Freedom is precisely what we desire when it is a matter of the sale of fish," he said.

Danish fishermen are often accused of taking too many young fish in their own fishing zones. The Danish fishermen understand the problem, and wish to contribute to its solution. In a note, Laurits Tornaes, the chairman of Denmark's Sea Fishing Union, said the following:

"Twelve hundred miles of economic zones have been established, and these areas are strictly regulated. According to this, we must fish in our own zone. This is not what we want. Why not negotiate other arrangements so that we can take in our quota in other countries' zones where the fishing is better? Then the small fish in our zone can be left alone—and the stock will be increased.

From the French point of view, overcapacity in international fishing was emphasized. Now is the time to reduce capacity, to reduce fishing fleets so that there will be a better connection between intake and outlay.

The next Nordic Fishing Conference will be held in Norway in 2 years.

9124

CSO: 5200/2113

NORWAY, DENMARK IN DISPUTE OVER CAPELIN FISHING OFF SVALBARD

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 27 Aug 82 p 12

[Article by Alf G. Andersen]

[Text] Helsingor, 26 August--There seem to be difficulties in reaching an agreement on the Danish-Norwegian capelin conflict. The Norwegian fishing authorities look so seriously upon Danish capelin fishing that they have sent a note to the EEC on the subject. But the Danes minimize the whole affair and say that Norway is overreacting. The Danish minister of fisheries, Karl Hjortnaes, said to AFTENPOSTEN that there is little he can do at present. At any rate, he has no authority to recall the Danish fishermen who have fallen into a desperate situation after having been chased away from many other fishing banks.

Fisheries Minister Hjortnaes is also afraid that Danish capelin fishing may have political consequences. It is well known that the EEC countries are attempting to find a common basis for a joint fishing agreement--and that Norway's help is necessary to bring about such an agreement.

"I have informed the Danish fishermen of the possibility that their actions may make it more difficult to reach a negotiated agreement. In this case, Danish capelin fishing will suffer. Also, as far as the Danes are concerned, the fishing operation is very small and probably will die by itself because it does not pay," Hjortnaes said.

The information secretary of the fisheries department, Trond Wold, reports in the meantime that the department has confirmed that four Danish seine boats, possibly as many as six, will be fishing capelin off Svalbard, and that a transport ship will be sent north.

Fisheries Minister Hjortnaes made his position known at the Nordic Fishing Conference by declaring publicly that he has little faith in the regulation of fishing. As is well known, regulation forms the key concept in Norwegian fishing policy. The cabinet minister believes that fish stocks will not suffer, and he points out that marine biologists admit that they often operate with incorrect data. To the question of whether Norwegian fishing organizations can look forward to reduced EEC duty on Norwegian fishing products,

Hjortnaes answers that if this does come about, it must go in as part of the trade agreement. "Obviously I will not rule out the possibility of such an agreement," Hjortnaes said to AFTENPOSTEN.

In the note from the Norwegian fishing authorities to the EEC commission, it was pointed out that the Norwegian understanding was that the EEC's quota rights in the Norwegian economic zone and in the fishing area around Jan Mayen had been made contingent upon the EEC countries not fishing in the forbidden areas around Svalbard.

Since Danish ships have now begun capelin fishing around Svalbard, there has been a clear violation of these assumptions, for fishing boats from EEC countries have not fished capelin in this zone before, the note points out.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

EC COMMISSIONER WARNS GREENLAND ON BLOCKING FISHING BY FRG

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 27 Sep 82 Sect II p 3

[Text] If Greenland continues to oppose the rights of other EC countries to fish in Greenland waters, this will have an adverse effect on the final position of the EC Council of Ministers on the relationship between Greenland and the EC, EC Commissioner Richard Burke said at a meeting with the Greenland parliament last weekend.

Richard Burke is in Greenland to prepare a report which will form the basis for the recommendations of the EC Commission on the question of Greenland's forthcoming withdrawal from the EC. He says that Greenland's fish exports to the EC may become jeopardized. The Greenland parliament wants to obtain a so-called OCT-arrangement, which concerns overseas countries and territories. It affords duty-free access for their products when exported to the EC area.

The OCT-arrangement, however, will not necessarily involve such duty-free access for Greenland fish--and this is the vital issue for Greenland. During his meeting with the Greenland parliament, Richard Burke did not conceal the fact that Greenland's economic development will become very difficult outside the EC--although he promised to do what he can "on the difficult road which we have chosen to take." It will be no bed of roses, he added.

Prior to his arrival in Greenland last Wednesday, Richard Burke had visited a number of capitals of the EC countries for the very purpose of discussing Greenland's forthcoming withdrawal. The reactions to Greenland's withdrawal differ widely--ranging from almost enthusiastic acceptance to a certain amount of opposition. This is not least due to Greenland's rejection of other countries' in their opinion legitimate demands for fishing quotas off Greenland.

In that connection, Richard Burke pointed to the dispute with respect to the West German cod fishing, the outcome of which was that West Germany got a quota of 5,000 off West Greenland, one of the conditions being that the total catch will not exceed the quota of a total of 62,000 tons which Greenland says is the justifiable quota.

The EC Commission has proposed a total quota of 75,000 tons for the present year, which will probably be finally fixed at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Fisheries on 4 October, and Richard Burke made it clear that the views of the EC Commission have not changed.

However, at the opening of the Greenland parliament last Friday, the chairman of the local Greenland government, Jonathan Motzfeldt, demanded that the Danish government veto any decisions seeking to encroach upon essential Greenland interests--and such encroachment will, in the opinion of the Greenland government, occur if the cod quota off West Greenland is put any higher than 62,000 tons.

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